

REMARKS

Status of claims

Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-11 are pending, of which claims 1, 9 and 10 are independent. Claims 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10 have been amended to correct informalities in the claim language and to more clearly define the present subject matter. Claims 1, 9 and 10 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 3. Claims 3 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Care has been exercised not to introduce new matter. Since no new consideration requiring a new search has been added, entry of this amendment is respectfully solicited.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwazono et al. (USP 6,714,882), Sato et al. (USP 6,008,626) and further in view of Terada et al. (USP 6,456,041). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwazono et al., Sato et al. and Terada et al., and further in view of Yoshida et al. (US Publication Number 2005/0106455). These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references discloses or suggests that *“a control portion [is] configured to make the memory portion store data indicating that forced discharge is completed when the forced discharge is completed, and to make the notification portion notify a message indicating that the abnormality is avoided, responsive to turning-on of the power feed from the power supply to the portable equipment, based on the data indicating that the forced discharge is completed,”* which is originally recited by claim 3 and

now recited by amended claims 1, 9 and 10. In rejecting original claim 3, the Examiner asserts that Terada discloses the above limitations. However, Terada fails to disclose that the message is displayed upon the power feed from the power supply changing from off to on. As such, it is clear that, at a minimum, Terada fails to disclose the above identified limitations of claims 1, 9 and 10. Further, it is also clear that none of the remaining cited references discloses or suggests these limitations of claim 1, 9 and 10, and it would not have been obvious to add these limitations to any combination of the cited references. Accordingly, claims 1, 9 and 10 and all claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references.

Regarding claim 2, the Examiner asserts that rearrangement of the switch 34 of Iwazono is obvious. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the switch 34 of Iwazono is used for forcibly discharging. Thus, if the switch 34 was rearranged with respect to the notification portion, the function of switch 34 would change the principle of operation of Iwazono. See MPEP § 2143.01 (The claimed combination cannot change the principle of operation of the primary reference or render the reference inoperable for its intended purpose). Thus, it is clear that it would not have been obvious to rearrange the position of switch 34 of Iwazono to arrive at the arrangement of the switch in the present subject matter. Accordingly, claim 2 is patentable over the cited references on its own merit in addition to the dependency upon claim 1.

Further, regarding claim 4, the Examiner asserts that switch 34 of Iwazono corresponds to the switch of claim 4. However, Applicants respectfully submit that switch 34 of Iwazono is not involved in the power feed from the power supply to the portable equipment. Accordingly, claim 4 is patentable over the cited references on its own merit in addition to the dependency upon claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, it is requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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